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SPOTLIGHT ON SPORTS

By JACK KEENE

Jay Kirke, veteran American association slugger, stands out as one of those oddities of baseball who star for many years in the fastest minor league company but never win their places in the big league sun.

Kirke, now with Minneapolis and formerly with Indianapolis and Louisville, must be ranked as one of the greatest natural hitters of minor league baseball. He stugs with the free and easy motion of Babe Ruth. He drives the ball to all corners of the lot. He is constant in his hitting, rarely entering a slump.

As far as Jayson is concerned baseball was designed to furnish him a chance to swing a bat. He might have been in the big show today had he taken the game more seriously early in his career. His love for "swatting 'em" caused him to neglect the other angles of the game. Serious training never appealed to him. He paid little attention to acquiring the technique—the inside stuff that is vital to major league stickers.

Connie Mack seems to have batted .667 in trying to pick three batting additions to his Athletics over the winter. He paid fancy prices for three stars—Paul Strand, Max Bishop and Al Simmons. Strand has failed to find big league pitching as easy to hit as coast league deliveries. He has served time on the bench as a result of this failure to swat as he should. Bishop and Simmons appear good buys to date, which gives Mack two good bets out of three guesses.

But John McGraw passes up reading the Boston Braves' box scores these days until after his after-dinner cigar. "Cause every now and then Jess Barnes pitches for Boston—and doesn't do so bad for a cast-off. Under Davey Bancroft's careful handling and encouragement Jess is doing some valuable mound duty for the Beaneaters.

Down in Chicago town they are remarking that Bill Barrett, Sox left fielder, has one of the prettiest throwing arms the big leagues have gazed upon. It's the best wing since Joe Birmingham's time in the opinion of some. Oddly enough Barrett started out to be an infielder. Which recalls the fact that Jimmy Sheppard, old Cub outfielder, who hid his whip for no gardener, was a converted infielder.

One of the leading factors in the remarkable drive of the rejuvenated Red Sox is the slugging of Josephus Harris, first baseman of the Hub team.

And Manager Fohl's move in making him the regular first sacker is believed to be responsible for his great swatting.

Harris joined the Sox team in 1922 and was used at first part of the time, the outfield some days and benched other days. Last year Manager Chance put him in the outfield.

Josephus always has desired to play first. Fohl knew Harris' capabilities as a first baseman from watching him while both were in Cleveland. Lee also knew Joe's hitting propensities. So when Fohl took hold of the Red Sox reins last spring he announced to the world in general that Harris would be his first baseman.

Harris, located permanently and satisfied with his situation, is playing a good game arfied and killing the ball.

Incidentally Harris' departure from the Cleveland club and organized ball temporarily was an unfortunate occurrence. Harris had been in military service during the war. He re-

joined the club for the season of 1919 and played in 62 games at first, alternating with Doc Johnson. The next season Harris and the club bosses couldn't agree on a price for his services and Joe jumped organized ball.

Remained outside the fold two years and then asked for and obtained re-instatement. The Indians were dicker for the services of "Stuffy" Melnis at the time and Harris was sent to Cleveland to Boston in the deal that made Stuffy a Cleveland.

Hank O'Day, veteran umpire, opines that his job—and the job of all his arbitrating brothers—has become easier of late years. The players have come to realize that all ump's try to be fair and impartial, he avers.

This is, no doubt, true. But I believe that the most important factor in bringing about this respect for the arbiters is the unwavering support accorded the umpires by the various league presidents year after year. The players have found out that rowdiness and ungentlemanly conduct toward the umpires has but one effect—fines and suspensions.

HOW'S YOUR HEALTH?

By Dr. W. F. Thompson

Not counting the cost Of a rat when you're ill, To keep one a year Takes a two dollar bill.

Sunday should be a day of rest—for the stomach and for the man.

Man dies, but his patent medicine testimonial lives on forever.

The best policy to pursue when you're laid up is one that's paid up.

When you're seeking recreation Watch the water and your step; If you let mosquitoes bite you Recreation brings no "pep."

By experiment it has been shown that an excessive meat diet will actually reduce one's physical endurance.

Speaking of food and endurance, it is interesting to note that some of the most wonderful feats of physical endurance have been performed on a diet of fish and rice.

When we speak of mosquitoes and malaria, it's the deadly female mosquito we dread. She's blood thirsty. The male mosquito secures his sustenance by drinking juices from succulent plants.

We speak of adversity, We wail of our woes; But the least of our troubles Are microbic foes.

The leaner the larvier the longer the life.

Cook Saturday — stuff Sunday—grumpy Monday.

A long speech, like tough pie crust needs shortening.

You may poison, You may trap them, You may put them under ban; But within your City limits, sir, There's a rat for every man.

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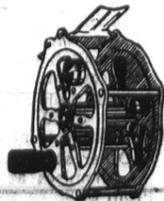
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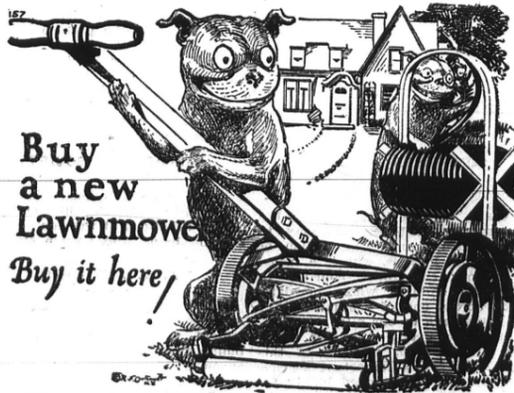
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